

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) called out Senate Republicans for delaying relief to millions of American families and blocking passage of emergency legislation that extends unemployment insurance, COBRA and other critical programs. The bill passed the House with unanimous support last week, but is now held up in the Senate by a single Senator - Republican Jim Bunning of Kentucky.

"Playing politics with families' lives is ridiculous," Wilson said. "In this economy, families are just trying to find work and put food on the table."

The emergency legislation includes a 30-day extension of a range of programs that expired last night, including unemployment insurance, help for unemployed workers in paying for health care (COBRA), small business loan guarantees, the highway bill, and flood insurance. It also delays cuts in Medicare physician payments to make sure that seniors have reliable access to their doctors.

"Because of this time wasting filibuster, more than 49,000 Ohioans will lose their unemployment insurance this month. In addition, it's stopping \$925 million in highway reimbursements and transit grants to states this week. That's endangering more than 32,000 jobs at the start of the construction season. In addition, some 47 million elderly Americans enrolled in Medicare could lose access to their doctors due to the cut in Medicare physician payments. This is clearly putting politics before people and I think that's just wrong."